

I am in full support of the proposal to eliminate Element 1 entirely!

Over the years Amateur Radio Leadership has shown a tendency to hang on to the past rather than think about what will be need in the future. Needed to help amateur radio fulfill its purpose. They fail to see the lost to amateur radio in the areas of technological development due to the lost of new (young) hams that have a desire to learn and experiment with the technology of their day.

As an Extra Class Ham I will not directly benefit from the removal of the Code Requirement. However, as an A.R.E.S. Section Emergency Coordinator and State R.A.C.E.S. Coordinator, I have the opportunity to see the greater needs of amateur radio with respect to emergency services. I see a generation of older hams {65, 70, 80+} that are no longer able to meet the needs as they were just 10 years ago. We need more amateur radio operators with greater operator privileges then just VHF, and we need them to help with the advancement of radio technology to find and develop new and better modes of communications if we are to continue to serve our communities and our country as Amateur Radio has done so effectively over the past century. It is clear that the only way to achieve this is by the elimination of the CW Element 1 requirement!

In my state CW is not a major player in emergency communications. The only CW net in place (to my knowledge) is in danger of being terminated for lack of support. It is sad to say but most of those who oppose the elimination of Element 1 (CW) will not and do not use the mode themselves. Their chief complaint is that they had to learn it so everyone else should! I do not believe that anyone should have to do something just because someone else did.

It is my view though observation that those countries that eliminate the code requirement will gain the most from an influx of technologically hunger amateur radio operators and experimenters that could (would) find amateur radio a viable hobby.

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